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A new species in the genus *Pseudorhyncomyia* Peris, 1952 and the identity of *P. deserticola* Zumpt and Argo, 1978 (Diptera, Rhiniidae)

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Abstract

The genus *Pseudorhyncomyia* Peris, 1952 is re-described and shown to have two valid species: *P. braunsi* (Villeneuve, 1920) and *P. aethiopica* **sp. nov.** The latter is described on the basis of a single male specimen captured near Ado, Ethiopia, in 1953. Nominal species *P. deserticola* Zumpt and Argo, 1978 is transferred to *Zumba* Peris, 1951, where it is placed as a junior synonym of *Z. antennalis* (Villeneuve, 1929), **syn. nov.**

Key words: Diptera, Rhiniidae, *Pseudorhyncomyia*, Afrotropical Region, new species, new synonym

Introduction

The genus *Pseudorhyncomyia* was erected by Peris (1952) for *Rhyncomyia braunsi* Villeneuve (1920: 153), which was designated as type species. The genus remained monotypic until Zumpt and Argo (1978) described a second nominal species, *P. deserticola*, from Namibia, and was catalogued with these two nominal species by Pont (1980).

During work on Rhiniidae for the Manual of Afrotropical Diptera Project (<http://afrotropicalmanual.net/>) I received for study a large sample of material from the KwaZulu-Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa (NMSA), among which were two specimens belonging to *Pseudorhyncomyia*. One was a female of *P. braunsi* (Villeneuve, 1920) (NMSA-DIP 19836). The second specimen, which was accompanied by a slide of the dissected genitalia, had been placed in the collection and was listed in the spreadsheet of the received material under the name *P. deserticola* (NMSA-DIP 61637). However, it immediately became apparent that the latter specimen did not fit the description of *P. deserticola* and represented a new species in *Pseudorhyncomyia*. This new species is described herein.

The statement by Zumpt and Argo (1978: 35) to the effect that *P. deserticola* “is quite different from *P. braunsi*” was rather puzzling, and it seemed that the description of *P. deserticola*, which is rather cursory, might not apply to a species of *Pseudorhyncomyia* at all. To investigate this problem the holotype of *P. deserticola* from Namibia (Gobabeb) was also examined.

Below, the genus *Pseudorhyncomyia* is diagnosed and described in detail, with explicit reference to the two included species. The new species is diagnosed briefly and the features by which it can be distinguished from *P. braunsi* are summarized in a key.

Finally, the features by which the holotype of *P. deserticola* agrees with other material of *Zumba antennalis* (Villeneuve) from Namibia (Gobabeb) in the Zoological Museum, Natural History Museum of Denmark, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark (ZMUC) are discussed and illustrated.

Methods

Acronyms for depositories

BMNH Natural History Museum, London, UK

hand it fits the genus *Zumba* Peris, 1951 on all accounts and keys to that genus in Zumpt (1958). It clearly belongs to the species *Z. antennalis* (Villeneuve) as described by Villeneuve (1929: 185, as *Rhyncomyia antennalis*), Peris (1952: 78, as *Rhyncomyia antennalis*) and Zumpt (1958: 193) and is conspecific with the numerous other *Z. antennalis* material from the type locality in Namibia (in ZMUC). The TST7+8 agrees with other *Z. antennalis* males in having a pair of strong black discal setae (Fig. 43), a property of *Z. antennalis* unmentioned by earlier authors. The male genitalia do not differ in any significant respects either from those figured by Zumpt (1958: 194 fig. 64) for *Z. antennalis*. According to Kurahashi and Kirk-Spriggs (2006: 93) the species is “exceedingly common in Namibia ... occurring in all Namibian biomes, but principally in the desert and karoo biomes ... [r]ecorded in all months of the year.” On this background the nominal species *P. deserticola* Zumpt and Argo is sunk as a junior synonym of *Z. antennalis* (Villeneuve), **syn. nov.** *Zumba antennalis* is known from Angola, Namibia and South Africa.

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